

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:  
receiving a request for hardware component information ~~in~~ at a service processor  
disposed in a hardware component as an open session request from a  
requesting client application, ~~which request passed to the service processor~~  
~~external to an operating system controlling the hardware component;~~  
transmitting from the service processor a challenge string to the requesting client  
application, the challenge string ~~includes~~ including a sequence number  
~~that increments with each new session~~ session identification assigned by  
the service processor, wherein the session identification is unique to each  
session;  
receiving ~~in~~ at the service processor a challenge response from the requesting  
client application, the challenge response including a hash number that is a  
~~function of at least one of the challenge string, session identification~~  
~~number, sequence number, and a password~~ the session identification;  
comparing the challenge response to an expected response to the challenge string,  
wherein the comparing includes verifying the session identification  
received in the challenge response against the session identification  
transmitted in the challenge string; and  
transmitting the hardware component information to the requesting client  
application.

Claims 2-3 (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the challenge  
response includes a sequence number that increments with ~~an~~ every new message.

5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising examining each packet received from the client application for one or more of the following: the session identification-number, the sequence number, and a hash number.
7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the hash number is comprises a function of one or more of the following: the session identification number, the sequence number, and the a packet itself.
8. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:  
transmitting a request for hardware component information to a service processor  
disposed in a hardware component as an open session request from a  
requesting client application, ~~the request to be passed to the service  
processor external to an operating system controlling the hardware  
component;~~  
receiving from the service processor a challenge string at the requesting client  
application, the challenge string ~~includes a sequence number that  
increments with each new session~~ including a session identification  
assigned by the service processor, wherein the session identification is  
unique to each session;  
transmitting to the service processor a challenge response from the requesting  
client application, the challenge response including ~~a hash number that is a  
function of at least one of the challenge string, session identification  
number, sequence number, and a password~~ the session identification; and

receiving from the service processor an authentication response to the requesting client application based on a comparison of the challenge response from the requesting client application and an expected challenge response calculated in the service processor, wherein the comparison includes verifying the session identification in the challenge response transmitted to the service processor against the session identification received in the challenge string.

Claims 9-11 (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising transmitting with each packet sent by the client application one or more of the following: the session identification-number, the sequence number and a hash number, ~~and wherein the hash number is~~ includes a function of one or more of the following: the session identification-number, the sequence number, and the a packet itself.
13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
  - a remote access port; and
  - a service processor coupled to the remote access port, wherein the service processor including a ~~machine-readable~~ machine-readable medium, having stored thereon a set of instructions, which, when executed, ~~perform~~ method comprising of cause the service processor to:
    - in response to a remote request for information about a component received as an open session request through the remote access port external to a host operating system of the apparatus, ~~the service processor transmitting~~ transmit a challenge string to a requesting

~~client application, the challenge string includes a sequence number~~  
~~that increments with each new session including session~~  
~~identification assigned by the service processor, wherein the~~  
~~session identification is unique to each session;~~

~~comparing~~ compare a challenge response received from the requesting  
client application with an expected response ~~to the challenge~~, the  
challenge response including a hash number that is a function of at  
~~least one of the challenge string, session identification number,~~  
~~sequence number, and a password~~ the session identification,  
wherein the comparing includes verifying the session identification  
received in the challenge response against the session identification  
transmitted in the challenge string; and

~~transmitting~~ transmit an authentication response to the requesting client  
application based on the comparison.

Claims 14-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the service processor compares a sequence number included in the challenge response against previously received sequence numbers and ignores the challenge response if it does not include a sequence number in correct sequence.
17. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the service processor compares a hash number received in the challenge response with an expected hash calculated by the service processor and transmits a success or failure message depending upon a result of the comparison.

Claims 18-19 (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:
- a processor;
  - a memory; and
  - a client application stored on a ~~machine-readable~~ machine-readable medium, the client application including a set of instructions which, when executed, ~~perform a method of~~ cause the client application to:
    - ~~transmitting~~ transmit a request for hardware component information to a service processor disposed in a hardware component as an open session request, ~~the request to be passed to the service processor external to an operating system controlling the hardware component;~~
    - ~~receiving~~ receive from the service processor a challenge string at the requesting client application, the challenge string ~~includes a sequence number that increments with each new session including a session identification assigned by the service processor, wherein the session identification is unique to each session;~~
    - ~~transmitting~~ transmit to the service processor a challenge response from the requesting client application, the challenge response including ~~a hash number that is a function of at least one of the challenge string, session identification number, sequence number, and a password~~ the session identification; and
    - ~~receiving~~ receive from the service processor an authentication response to the requesting client application based on a comparison of the challenge response from the requesting client application and an expected challenge response calculated ~~in~~ at the service processor,

wherein the comparison includes verifying the session  
identification received in the challenge response against the session  
identification in the challenge string.

21-30 (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A ~~machine-readable~~ machine-readable medium having stored thereon a set of instructions which, when executed by a machine, ~~perform a method of~~ causes the machine to:
- ~~transmitting~~ receive a request for hardware component information to a service processor disposed in a hardware component as an open session request; ~~the request to be passed to the service processor external to an operating system controlling the hardware component;~~
- ~~receiving~~ transmit from the service processor a challenge string at the requesting client application, the challenge string ~~includes a sequence number that increments with each new session~~ including a session identification assigned by the service processor, wherein the session identification is unique to each session;
- ~~transmitting to~~ receive at the service processor a challenge response from the requesting client application, the challenge response including a hash number that is a function of at least one of the challenge string, session identification number, sequence number, and a password the session identification; and
- compare the challenge response to an expected response to the challenge string,  
wherein the comparing includes verifying the session identification

received in the challenge response against the session identification  
transmitted in the challenge string; and  
~~receiving~~ transmit the hardware component information from the service  
~~processor an authentication response to the requesting client application~~  
~~based on a comparison of the challenge response from the requesting~~  
~~client application and an expected challenge response calculated in the~~  
~~service processor.~~

Claims 32-33 (Cancelled)

34. (New) The system according to claim 20, wherein the service processor compares a sequence number included in the challenge response against previously received sequence numbers and ignores the challenge response if it does not include a sequence number in correct sequence.
35. (New) The system according to claim 20, wherein the service processor compares a hash number received in the challenge response with an expected hash calculated by the service processor and transmits a success or failure message depending upon a result of the comparison.
36. (New) The machine-readable medium according to claim 31, wherein the challenge response includes a sequence number that increments with ~~an~~ every new message.
37. (New) The machine-readable medium according to claim 31, wherein the set of instructions which, when executed by the machine, further causes the machine to examine each packet received from the client application for one or more of the following: the session identification, the sequence number, and a hash number.